

REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing and reconsideration of the subject application are respectfully requested in light of the amendments above and the comments which follow.

As correctly noted in the Office Action Summary, claims 1-31 were pending. By the present response, claims 4, 6 and 7 have been amended, claim 8 canceled and claims 32-34 added. Thus, upon entry of the present response, claims 1-7 and 9-34 remain pending and await further consideration on the merits.

Support for the foregoing amendments can be found, for example, in at least the following locations in the original disclosure: the original claims and the specification, paragraph [0025].

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicants note with appreciation that claims 1-3 and 9-31 are allowed, and the indication that claims 7-8 contain allowable subject matter if rewritten in independent form, as noted in paragraphs 4 and 5 of the Official Action. Claim 8, which has been canceled, has been incorporated into claim 4. In addition, some of the features of the track pin bushing in claim 4 have been broadened by amendment.

DRAWINGS

Replacement figures FIG. 3A and FIG. 3B are enclosed. These figures indicate the least portion of the outer surface that has been carburized (indicated by reference numeral 340 in FIG. 3A) and the carburized material (indicated by reference numeral 342 in FIG. 3B), in agreement with the description in paragraphs

[0024] and [0025] of the specification, which have also been amended to insert the reference numerals. No new matter has been added. Annotated sheets are also enclosed. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 4-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,249,868 to Watts (hereafter "*Watts*") in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,629,353 to Burke (hereafter "*Burke*") and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 5,879,743 to Revankar (hereafter "*Revankar* ") on the grounds set forth in paragraph 3 of the Official Action. The rejection is moot in view of the amendments by which the features of allowable claim 8 have been incorporated into independent claim 4. Further, it is respectfully asserted that the broadened features of claim 4 in combination with claim 8 still distinguish over the cited references.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENTS

Applicants submitted in this application an Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) on June 24, 2004, containing the EPO Search Report and references. As of the Official Action dated July 13, 2004, this IDS had not been acknowledged by the Examiner by return of an initialed Form PTO-1449.

It is respectfully requested that the status of the above IDS be acknowledged by the Examiner in the next communication. Further, initialed copies of the Form PTO-1449 are requested.

CONCLUSION

From the foregoing, further and favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner feel that any issues remain, it is requested that the undersigned be contacted so that any such issues may be adequately addressed and prosecution of the instant application expedited.

Respectfully submitted,

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AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

Please replace FIG. 3A and FIG. 3B with the enclosed replacement figures, in which the least portion of the outer surface that has been carburized is indicated by reference numeral 340 in FIG. 3A and the carburized material is indicated by reference numeral 342 in FIG. 3B in agreement with paragraphs [0024] and [0025] of the specification. No new matter has been added. Annotated sheets are also enclosed.

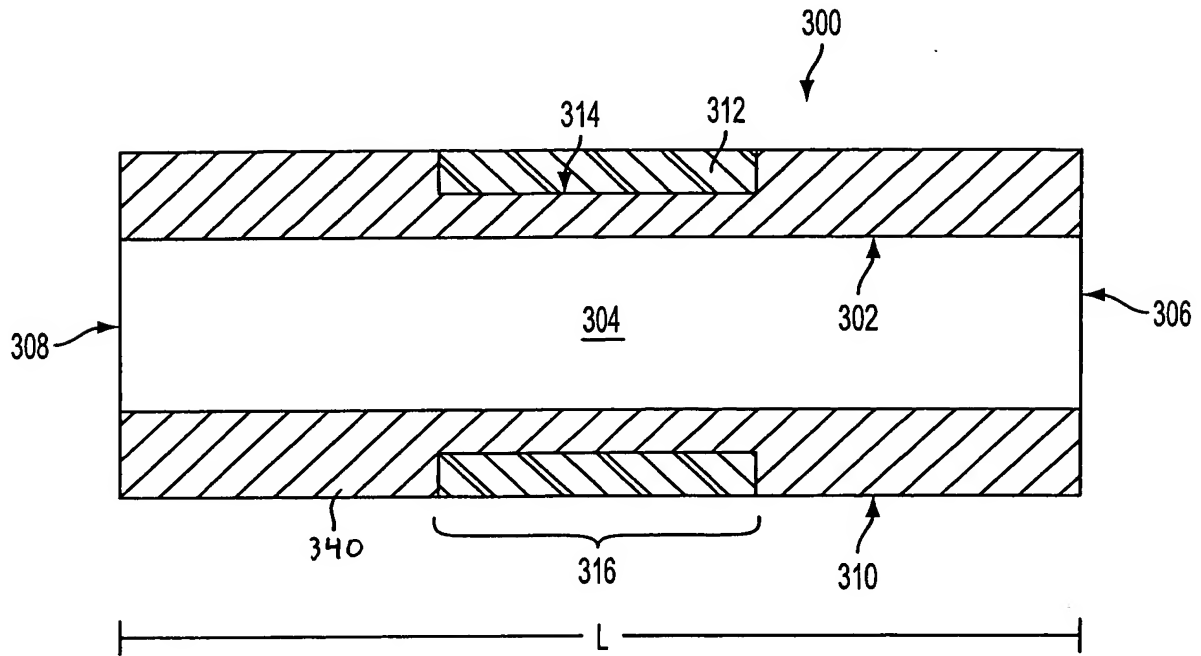


FIG. 3A

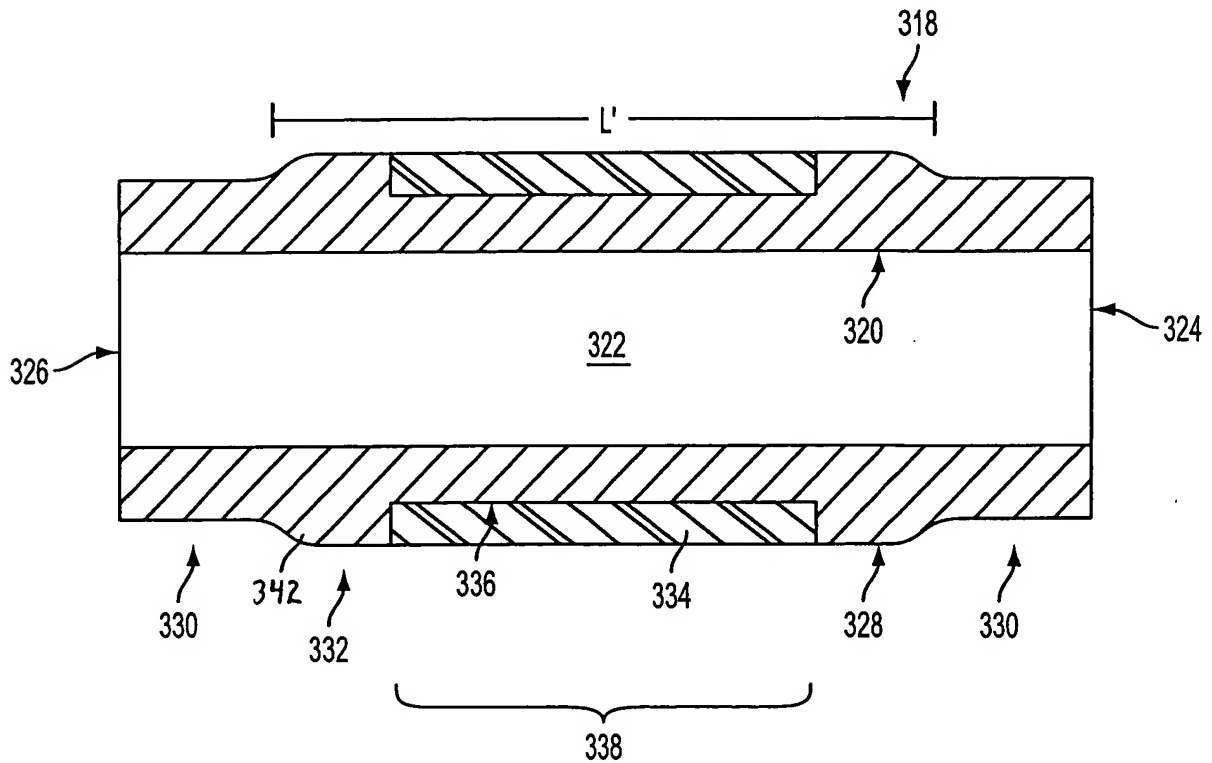


FIG. 3B